

Meeting Record
LiLI-Z Committee
LiLI-ILL Committee
ITTF (Information Technology Task Force)
February 20, 2001

Rand Simmons provided background of the Request for Information for a Virtual Catalog/ILL Management system released by the Idaho State Library, December 2000. The State Library received four proposals:

- Fretwell-Downing. *VDX, ZPORTAL, Z2Web*
- Pigasus. *Wings Management Request System, WebClarity*
- Auto-Graphics. *Impact/Z39.50 Gateway, Impact/ISO ILL*
- OCLC. *SiteSearch, WebZ software*

A proposal was not received from Blue Angel Technologies, Inc. the developer of the MetaStar Z39.50 gateway, which is the basis for the LiLI-Z gateway.

A general discussion pursued around two questions:

- What do we mean by Virtual Catalog?
- What do we mean by statewide interlibrary loan management?

A question was raised. Are we aiming at a single, Idaho catalog? If so, will this improve our service? The suggestion was made that three regional servers might benefit Idaho libraries rather than a single server.

The question was also raised regarding the LiLI-Z gateway. More development work is needed to make this a useful tool. This will require more dollars and more staff time. State Library staff is already hard-pressed with present duties.

The natural pattern of searching for the public library patron is 1) is the book available at the local library, then 2) is it available in the system or region? After that, it was suggested that patrons might benefit less from a statewide search than searching a larger database such as OCLC WorldCat.

It was questioned what are the political risks of not developing a statewide system (regarding obtaining state funding).

The group reached agreement on three statements:

- 1) The LiLI Board wants statewide patron-initiated interlibrary loan.
- 2) Document delivery (courier) is important.
- 3) Electronic delivery of documents is important.

Rand asked the group to test four assumptions. The group agreed in general to the following:

- The less technical support needed at the local library level, the better.
- The less on-site technical support needed at the LiLI Network level, the better.
- In the absence of adequate network resources (staffing, technical expertise) the best option may be outsourcing.

- It will be difficult to administer more services with present network resources.
- It would be ideal to search all online-accessible catalogs in one search.

The responses to the Request for Information were summarized. Rand had prepared two summary charts. One compared the impact of each model on end users, local library, and LiLI Network; the other compared features of each product.

It was agreed that the Board needed further philosophical discussion before choosing a product.

The group agreed to take making OCLC World Cat a LiLI-database to the Board as a whole. In essence, World Cat would become the virtual catalog. It would not depend on web-based or Z39.50-based searching although it would be accessible through the web.

It was also agreed that State Library staff would gather more information on the Montana Library Network that provides CatExpress to small libraries.